

♪ TEMPO NOTES ♪

♪ WINTER 2009 ♪

From James P. Dexter, Superintendent of Schools ~

Our students and teachers have worked hard to arrange an excellent program for the concerts this winter, and the performances promise to be entertaining.

The arts are an essential component of our District's educational program. Participation in the arts not only cultivates the development of students' unique talents, but also stimulates intellectual functioning and promotes life-long learning. I am pleased that we have a large number of students in the program and encourage you to continue to foster your child's participation in our music and theater opportunities.

As always, please check the District's Web site at www.ichabodcrane.org to stay current with all of the District activities.

I look forward to seeing you at various District events this year, and I wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

5th Grade Chorus Update:

The fifth grade chorus has worked very hard in preparation for the Winter Concert. They have been working on blending voices, diction, using their head voices and memorizing their words, among other things. This group has been wonderful to work with and I look forward to working with them in the spring as well.

The fifth grade chorus is excited to announce that they will be singing "God Bless America" at an Albany Conquest game. This will take place at the Times Union Center in Albany on Saturday, February 6th at 5PM. The Albany Conquest will be taking on the Springfield Falcons. The Times Union Center was so pleased with the 5th grade chorus's performance at an Albany River Rats game last winter, they have been invited to perform again.

5th Grade Band Update:

This year's 5th Grade Band students have been working very hard to prepare for their winter concert and earning colored yarns as they progress through their lesson books. Students started out in September learning how to assemble, care for, keep a steady beat and make a sound on their instruments. Now, they can play songs with five or six notes, more complex rhythms and two or more independent parts.

5th Grade Band and Chorus Winter Concert

This year's 5th grade band and chorus are gearing up for their winter concert. Our performing groups have worked very hard in preparation for this performance. This concert will take place on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 PM in

the High School Auditorium. For many of the 5th graders this will be the first time they have performed on their instruments or sang in front of a large audience.

The concert will consist of three selections performed by the chorus, small instrumental ensembles, and three short pieces performed by the full band. Miss Giammattei and Miss Davidson are looking forward to the winter concert and hope to see many parents, friends and family members in attendance.

The band and chorus will be performing a second concert for students and teachers on Friday, December 11th, at 9:30 AM in the High School Auditorium. This concert is not open to the public.

Please remember to buy a chance on a wreath or the quilt - \$5 will give you a chance to win a beautiful wreath made and donated by Crazy Daisy Florists or the gorgeous quilt made and donated by Helen Schneider.

A Big Thank-you to Crazy Daisy Florists and Helen Schneider for their talents and generosity!

The Crane Acting Troupe will present The Wizard of Oz in March of 2010. This year there will be a matinee performance, prior to the evening performance schedule, on Sunday, March 21st at 2:00 pm and evening performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday March 25th, 26th and 27th at 7:30 pm. The cast and crew are very excited to present this show to "children of all ages".

CONFERENCE ALL STATE FESTIVAL

Arielle Lant and Kathryn Leinung (All State Choir) were selected to represent Ichabod Crane at the NYSSMA Winter Conference All State Festival in Rochester, NY. In order to be selected to participate in the festival, students were required to audition on a Level Six solo, and sight read a short passage for a NYSSMA judge. Only the highest scoring students in New York State were selected to perform at this event. After several days of intensive rehearsals, the festival culminated with a concert at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

You may have noticed the Holiday decor in the auditorium. PEEBLES Department Store in Hudson donated these decorations to the Music/Theatre Department. Thank you PEEBLES!

AREA ALL STATE FESTIVAL

Twelve students from the Ichabod Crane High School Music Department were selected to attend the NYSSMA Area All State Festival on November 20 - 21 at F.D.R. High School in Hyde Park, N.Y. In order to be selected to participate in the festival, the students were required to prepare and perform a solo for a NYSSMA judge, as well as sight read a short melody. The highest scoring students in the Hudson Valley region were selected to participate in this event.

Students participated in intense rehearsals on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The experience culminated in a concert on Saturday afternoon under the direction of conductors from around the Capital District and beyond.

Students representing Ichabod Crane were **Christopher Alarcon, Aubrie Baker, Katherine Brady, Ethan DiCintio, James Farrell, Julian Greene, Arielle Lant, Kathryn Leinung, Daniel McCowan, Ryan McDermott, Kathryn Noll and Kathryn Raftery.**

On October 15th, Andrew Blanco, Ichabod Crane Class of 2000, came to speak with the 7/8 band. Andrew has been the national touring percussionist with The Color Purple. During his recent stop at Proctor's in Schenectady, Andrew came to talk to the 7/8 band about the importance of setting goals, working to achieve them and to take the time to practice for every lesson as if it were an audition. The students were very interested in his career and how he started as an Ichabod Crane music student.

This time of year is a great time to think of a special gift for your young musicians. Smartmusic is a computer program we use at the Middle School during lessons throughout the year that encourages your child to focus practicing skills at home. The program can be purchased online for \$30/year. Check out smartmusic.com for more information or stop by to see me for a demonstration. John Keal Music offers a wide variety of musical products such as metronomes, music stands, care kits, reed holders, mouthpieces, or even a new instrument. Feel free to contact your child's music teacher for other ideas or for help selecting the right instrument. John Keal Music delivers orders every Friday during the school year.

THE 'RIDERS' MARCHING BAND ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

In the Fall of each year the 'Riders' Marching Band sell the **Entertainment Book** as their annual fundraiser. The Entertainment Book is a sophisticated discount coupon books that features hundreds of 50% savings and generous 2-for-1 offers for well-known restaurants, leading hotels, sporting events, theaters, movies, concerts and more. The "Riders' Marching also sells **OUT OF TOWN Entertainment Books** for anywhere in the county. All fundraising proceeds benefit the Music Students involved in the sale.

The Ichabod Crane 'RIDERS' Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Richburg and Color Guard Advisors Alyson White made its fall debut in the Town of Stuyvesant Quadrcentennial Parade on September 19th. This fall the Band, led by **Drum Majors Karolyn Eberhardt, Aubrie Baker, Kateri Donahoe and Color Guard Captains Alica Cowin and Karyn Seymour**, also performed in: Band Day at the University Of Massachusetts Amherst on September 27th, the North Adam Massachusetts Fall Foliage Parade on Oct 4th, two Home Football Games, the Albany New York Columbus Day Parade on October 10th and the Woonsocket Rhode Island Autumnfest Parade on Oct 12th. The 'Riders' Marching Band was one of 25 bands hailing from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & New York, invited to perform in the Rhode Island event. On Saturday September 27th, the 'Riders' Marching Band traveled to U-Mass Amherst to learn from and perform with the Power and Class of New England, the **University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band!** 65 bands from all across New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania joined the Minuteman Band in an intense rehearsal for the program. Their performance occurred four hours later before a crowd of 17,000 fans at the U-Mass Minutemen vs. Stony Brook football game halftime show!

Party With "Pop Rock Circus"!

On Friday, January 29th, 2010 "Pop Rock Circus" will be performing in the Ichabod Crane Middle School Cafeteria. PRC is made up of musicians from the Albany, NY area including Ichabod Crane's very own teachers, Miss Amy Giammattei from MHG, MVB, and the Middle School and Mr. Steve Werthner from the High School. Performing music from the 70's, 80's 90's and today, "Pop Rock Circus" is sure to please an audience of all ages. The party starts at 7:00 PM in the Middle School Cafeteria on Friday, January 29th and concludes at 10:00 PM. To purchase tickets, pick up an order form from Miss Giammattei (MHG, MVB, MS), Miss Seaver (MS) or Mr. Werthner (HS).

Ticket prices are: Students/Seniors: \$5.00
Adults: \$8.00
Families of 4 or more: \$20.00